

Topsnam Vt. Sep. 22. 1860

Dear Mr. Garrison.

119.

As our State Conven-

tion approaches my anxiety for you to be there increases. When we were making our preliminary calculations and arrangements the friends in Boston & Mass. assured me that you could not come. You were then at Northumberland N. H. for health. But as the time of our meeting draws nigh I am sorry I did not make more effort to secure your presence & aid.

I am not authorized by our Committee to invite you, but on my own responsibility I hereby do most sincerely and earnestly express my desire that you may attend. We will greatly need you. Your presence at such a Convention would do great good; and your voice for the truth & right

would tend greatly to advance our
holy Cause in Vermont. I am
aware that your health has been
feeble, but a trip to Bradford might
do you good. You would need to
be absent from home only four
days. The Cause & the Crisis
demand your presence if you
can at all come. We have the
promise of good help, but we
will need more. We want Mr.
Garrison if possible.

If you cannot come, I will
be greatly pleased if you can
write us a Characteristic letter
which we may read before the
Convention. Please address
us at Topsham at your
earliest convenience.

Praying that the blessing of
the God of the Oppressed may
be yours. I am, dear friend,

Yours for the right. N. R. Johnston.

P. S. Monday 24th. Just as I was closing - finishing - the foregoing pages I was interrupted & the interruption was continued until it was too late to get my letter into the evening mail. And now since the interruption is gone, I wish to inquire of you who & what my interrupter was. He announced his name as "Pratt of Boston". From extracts from papers which he showed me I saw his name was Daniel Pratt. I suspect from what the papers said he is a somewhat notorious character. He seemed so suspicious, or rather so near a crazy man - at least "non compos mentis" - I did not announce a public meeting for him as he wished me. He evidently came hoping that I would get up an Anti-Slavery meeting. He remained with me over Sunday, & this forenoon took his departure evidently disappointed, if

not displeased that I did not
do more for him. My curiosity
was much excited. I think I
once saw some sheet in Boston
published by the 'great American Traveller'
probably the same Pratt: And I
am not certain but that this
is the man who at our Anniver-
sary in the Melodeon in May
attempted to speak from the
stairs & whom Mr. Quincy
called to order.

Mr. Brown in his late letter in the
Liberator gives a dark picture of
Vermont. The reality is dark enough,
but he gave the dark side. His most
successful meetings in numbers & in
pay he does not at all mention.

He is right, however, in what he says
of the need of more labor.

With the warmest wishes for your health,
prosperity, & success in the glorious cause,
I am, dear friend, yours, truly, N. R. Johnson.